

Application No.: 10/646,085  
Group Art Unit: 2833

SEP 17 2004

In the Claims:

1. (original) A connector assembly comprising a first connector and a second connector that are mated with each other,

the first connector having a plurality of contact passageways that are disposed in a single row, a latching arm disposed between two adjacent contact passageways and pivotally connected to tubular walls defining the contact passageways, and a top wall connecting the two contact passageways and covering the latching arm, and

the second connector having mating apertures that receive the tubular walls defining the contact passageways, and a catch that latch-engages with the latching arm.

2. (original) The connector assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the latching arm of the first connector has a rib that extends in the direction of mating, and the catch of the second connector has a groove that guides the rib.

3. (currently amended) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the latching arm is pivotally connected to the contact-accommodating tubular parts walls by a connecting web.

4. (original) The connector assembly according to claim 3 wherein the connecting web is disposed at substantially the central portion of the tubular walls defining the contact passageways along the mating axis.

5. (original) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein a release projection protrudes upward from the rear end of the latching arm to pivot the latching arm and release the mating connection of the connectors.

6. (original) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein a latching arm extension part extends to the rear of the top wall.

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7. (previously presented) The connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein an accommodating part for a tip end of a tool is provided on the rear end of the latching arm and a cut-out is provided in the top wall to allow the tool to engage the accommodating part to release the mating of the connectors.

8. (previously presented) A connector which has a plurality of contact passageways that are disposed in a single row and defined by tubular walls, a latching arm which is disposed between and pivotally connected to the walls defining two adjacent contact passageways by a connecting web, and a top wall which connects the tubular walls that define the two adjacent contact passageways such that the top wall covers the latching arm.

9. (previously presented) The connector according to Claim 8, further comprising a rib extending along the latching arm.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The connector according to claim 8 wherein the connecting web is disposed at substantially the central portion of the walls defining the two adjacent contact passageways along the mating axis.

12. (original) The connector according to claim 9 wherein a release projection protrudes upward from the rear end of the latching arm.

13. (original) The connector assembly according to claim 9 wherein a latching arm extension part extends to the rear of the top wall.

14. (previously presented) The connector assembly according to claim 9 wherein an accommodating part for a tip end of a tool is provided on the rear end of the latching arm and a cut-out is provided in the wall to allow the tool to engage the accommodating part.

15. (canceled)